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VOLUME LXV, NUMBER 19788 SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 30, 1997 • KISLEV 1, 5758 • 30 RAJAB 1418 NIS 4.50 (EILAT NIS 3.85)

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150,000 workers set to launch strike today

About 150,000 members of Histadrut Clerks' Union started an open-ended strike at midnight in protest against government plans for pension reform and privatization. The action was launched while the National Labor Court was in session late last night to hear a petition by the Union of Local Authorities against the strike. The court had to reconvene after Treasury wage director Yossi Kucik rejected a compromise reached Friday between the ULA and the clerks, which called for a three-week freeze in plans to deduct salary bonuses. ULA chairman Adi Eldar said he could not understand Kucik's objections to the bonuses, which have been paid for dozens of years, and that he would hold Kucik personally responsible for the strike. Eldar also voiced objections to the strike, saying he thought the unions should resolve their dispute through dialogue and not by harming public services. The strike is expected to paralyze operations in 360 local authorities and national institutions such as the Jewish Agency and the Jewish National Fund, and will also affect Magen David Adom, the Fire and Rescue Service, some WIZO and Na'amat day-care centers, and government companies. Joining in the strike tomorrow will be Kupat Holim Clalit (except for doctors, who will work as usual), the universities, the ORT school network, the College of Management and Jerusalem hospitals. Unions representing academics, engineers and social workers will also join the strike. Clerks' Union chairman Leon Morozovsky said he doubted the strike would last for long, and that he expected the country to look like it had "gone through a revolution" after two days. The strike is the latest round in a Histadrut battle against government privatization plans, which have sparked fears that workers' rights would be harmed. In another dispute, 22 sanitation trucks belonging to private contractors hired by the city of Tel Aviv were vandalized last night in a parking lot. Police suspect that city sanitation workers were behind the action. The chairman of the Tel Aviv Sanitation Workers' Union, Amnon Bar-David, said last night that they would refuse to honor a decision of the regional labor court Thursday night calling on them to resume work.



Hundreds of demonstrators attend last night's protest near the Prime Minister's residence in Jerusalem against further troop withdrawals in the West Bank.

Right-wingers protest redeployment

Hundreds of people gathered outside Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu's residence in Jerusalem last night in protest against proposed troop redeployments in the West Bank. Holding banners reading "Only Binyamin Netanyahu, the people are with you," and "Clinton - Israel will have to pay the 'Bill,'" a crowd estimated at between 500 to 800 listened as ministers, MKs and settler leaders spoke from the makeshift podium. The event was organized by the Council of Jewish Communities in Judea, Samaria and Gaza. "We all know that the Oslo Agreement is wrong; people are unsure, they don't know what the future holds. We support Netanyahu but we are concerned that he won't be able to withstand the US pressure," said Aric, a settler from Samaria who refused to give his full name. Women held sleeping children in their arms, while others held signs, some of which read "We support Netanyahu." A youth holding Peace Now banners was escorted by police to the far end of the street. "You better accompany him and show him where they are allowed to stand," said one policeman to another. Peace Now spokeswoman Hagit Ya'ari said the police had asked some 40 activists to stand far from the right-wing demonstration, to prevent confrontations. "Noting that the number of right-wing protesters seemed small, Ya'ari asserted 'it is obvious that the majority of settlers are against the Council and for the redeployment.' "We knew there wouldn't be a large crowd; it is like one large family," retorted Council spokeswoman Yehudit Tayar. "People are hesitant to demonstrate, especially after we worked so hard to support this government." "Fifty years ago today a majority vote recognized and agreed to Jewish sovereignty in the State of Israel," said Deputy Education Minister Moshe Peled. "It was an important decision that the Arabs refused to recognize and shortly after they carried out terrorist attacks, killing seven Jewish workers from Patah Tikva. The uncle of Faisal Hussein, the Palestinian official in charge of Jerusalem Affairs, Jamal Hussein, vowed that the declaration that was signed in 1948 would be deleted by the blood that would spill. Since those days terrorist attacks haven't stopped." "I call on you, Binyamin Netanyahu do not surrender to the US, European, Russian or left-wing pressure. This is the public that elected you and supports you," Peled said, to loud cheers. Other speakers included MK Hanan Porat (NRP), MK Michael Kleiner (Gesher), MK Benny Elon (Moladet) and settlement council chairman Pichas Wallerstein. One after another they begged Netanyahu not to huddle under US pressure or agree to further withdrawals. Porat read out a letter from Yoel Tzur, whose wife Ita and son Ephraim were murdered near their home in Beit El. Tzur's letter, he said, stressed the importance of demanding that the Palestinians fulfill their commitments as well. "I, on behalf of all the bereaved families whose loved ones were killed by terrorists, demand that Israel stand firm and demand the terrorists be extradited," Tzur wrote. "Nothing has been done, my wife and son's murderers roam freely in Ramallah just near my home in Beit El," he continued. "The government must refuse to continue until all the terrorists are handed over. Until this is done our wounds continue bleeding." The Women in Green are holding a "Not One Inch" demonstration outside the Prime Minister's office beginning today at 9:00 a.m. Itm adds: Several dozen Meretz supporters demonstrated over the weekend in protest against right-wing incitement against the prime minister, such as posters that appeared in Jerusalem last week showing Netanyahu in a keffiyeh, and labeled "The liar." "We are warning against the next political murder and demand that the police and General Security Service arrest anyone inciting to murder," said MK Meretz Ran Cohen. "Two years have passed [since Yitzhak Rabin's assassination] and nothing has been learned." The party stressed in a statement that although it opposed Netanyahu's policies, it felt compelled to sharply denounce any form of incitement. Tsomet also condemned the posters, and asked that the elements responsible for them restrain themselves and not get swept into extremist actions that could bring another tragedy. President Ezer Weizman said, "this is a serious act committed by crazy people. I don't care if they're from the right, the left, or the center. This has to stop." Lia Collins adds: MK Ophir Pines (Labor) wrote a letter to Uri Avnery, who heads the Gush Shalom peace group, to protest the group's advertisement in Friday's Ha'aretz which said: "The prime minister is an enemy terrorist act." "All of us have severe criticisms of the prime minister and his policies but we must restrain ourselves and check and recheck our words," Pines wrote. He recalled the incitement which preceded Rabin's assassination.

Cabinet likely to OK pullback

Cabinet endorsement of Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu's package deal, including a second troop withdrawal in the West Bank, appears certain today, despite yesterday's right-wing demonstration against a pullback. Government sources expected the ministers to appoint a special committee to work out details of the proposed further redeployment, rather than determine the precise geographical dimensions now. The package deal proposed by Netanyahu, entails retention after final-status talks, of the Jordan Valley as a buffer against military attack from the east, continued Israeli control over Jerusalem's enlarged municipal boundaries and inclusion of the Etzion Bloc of settlements within Israel's borders. It also stipulates that a security zone must be demarcated beyond the Green Line in the West Bank. Justice Minister Tzahi Hanegbi and Agriculture Minister Rafael Eitan are expected to vote against the pullback. They may be joined by the National Religious Party's ministers. Of particular interest will be the position taken by Finance Minister Yaakov Neeman, both because of the powerful portfolio he holds and his links to the NRP. The two ministers representing Yisrael Ba'aliya, Natan Sharansky and Yuli Edelstein, are being counted among the potential affirmative votes, but Edelstein may abstain. A comfortable majority in favor of the pullback would boost Netanyahu's domestic and international image, allaying criticism that his power base has been eroded by a number of events, including the recent controversies within the Likud. Sources confirmed that the premier will stop short of specifying what percentage of the West Bank should be handed over to the Palestinian Authority. Instead, Netanyahu prefers to outline the future map of Israel and the PA as he would like to see it. David Rudge adds: Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai said the government will give its backing to Netanyahu's proposals for a second stage redeployment and was optimistic that the plans would receive the support of the US. He reiterated his conviction that Israel must honor its commitments and help move the peace process forward. "It is my understanding, which I have stated for the past year, that we cannot skip the second stage [of redeployment]," Mordechai told reporters after visiting wounded soldiers at Rambam Hospital in Haifa. "It is necessary to fulfill our part of the agreement and demand from the Palestinians that they also implement in full their parts of the agreement - to fight terror and its infrastructure - and by this create a different atmosphere... between us and the Palestinians. I believe that an agreement will be reached by the government on the steps that have to be taken over the second stage. The focus, of course, should be the issue of the final status." Itm adds: Nabil Shaath traveled to Egypt yesterday to meet with Egyptian Foreign Minister Amr Moussa. Foreign Ministry director-general Eitan Bentsur and deputy director-general for the Middle East and peace process Yoav Biran will travel today to Egypt to meet with Moussa. Jerusalem Post Staff adds: The current impasse to Israeli-Palestinian negotiations is totally unrelated to Iraq's efforts to provoke a crisis over UN sanctions, US Secretary of State Madeleine Albright, said in a letter released last week by the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations. "We do not link these issues," Albright said, after the conference expressed its concerns over reports that the Clinton administration was linking the Iraqi crisis and the talks. The status of the peace process "affects the regional environment," as well as American influence in the region, Albright wrote. However, she wrote that "we are dealing with Saddam and regional implications of his provocations and the merits of the case, and not with any connection to the Arab-Israeli negotiations."

Five IDF soldiers wounded in security zone Three SLA troops killed

The building was damaged but there were no children in school at the time. Last Sunday Amal shelled the Beit Leif village in the security zone, killing eight people and wounding several others. On Friday IAF warplanes struck at Hizbullah targets in the Soujoud region of south Lebanon. The IDF spokesman said the planes staged two attacks in which pilots reported accurate hits and all the planes returned safely to their bases. The raids were apparently in response to Hizbullah mortar and light weapons fire at SLA outposts. Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai on Friday visited the senior IDF officer, Col. Yair, who was slightly wounded in a close-range clash with Hizbullah gunmen near the SLA's Soujoud outpost on Thursday. Yair, who is being treated in Rambam Hospital's surgical ward, was visited earlier by OC Northern Command Maj.-Gen. Amirat Levine and President Ezer Weizman. Yair had gone to an observation point and surprised one or more gunmen lying in ambush nearby. He managed to shoot one bullet before return fire knocked his rifle out of his hands, and then he hurled a grenade at the attackers. Mordechai reiterated that the security zone was vital to the defense of northern communities and that the IDF would remain there until appropriate security agreements were reached. "The main problem is that we don't want to be on Lebanese soil. We are there for the sake of security," he said. "We have to seek and find any way possible to achieve a political arrangement with a serious element that would be able to guarantee the security of the North and then we would be able to pull out our forces." "As long as there is no such arrangement we have to strengthen IDF officers and soldiers who are doing their job properly, and not, God forbid, weaken their hands or harm them, Mordechai said. The Chief of Staff Lt.-Gen. Amnon Lipkin-Shahak said Friday that if the IDF withdrew unilaterally from Lebanon, militia groups in Lebanon would be able to fire at civilians in Israel. "Given that the alternatives are either to have soldiers or settlements stand in the way of the terrorists, it is clear which one we would choose." He added it would be irresponsible to withdraw before Hizbullah quit attacks on Israel and before there was a force in south Lebanon that could keep the border quiet. Meanwhile, Deputy Russian Foreign Minister Viktor Posevlyuk will raise a proposal for a prisoner exchange between Israel and Hizbullah when he visits Beirut next week, a Lebanese newspaper, Ed-Diyar reported on Friday.

10,000 celebrate 50th anniversary of UN partition resolution in Tel Aviv

Some 10,000 people participated last night in a street celebration in Tel Aviv marking the 50th anniversary of the UN partition resolution that led to the creation of the state. The event recreated the moments of waiting for the results of the UN vote 50 years ago and the celebrating that occurred after it. The crowd held signs that read "Boo to the White Paper" and "A Hebrew state now!" Actor Tuvia Tzafir played the roles of Golda Meir and David Ben-Gurion. Tel Aviv Mayor Ronni Milo pres-

UN head Annan delivers message to TA celebrations, Page 4

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Iraq protests U-2 spy plane overflight

BAGHDAD (Reuters) — Iraq said a US U-2 spy plane flew over its territory again yesterday, the official Iraqi news agency INA reported. "The American U-2 spy plane hovered again today in Iraqi skies to carry out provocation and espionage activities," INA said. INA, quoting an official spokesman, said the plane entered Iraqi skies at 9:20 a.m. local time flying at high altitude, beyond the reach of Iraqi air defenses.

"Iraqi systems and air defenses have been monitoring the plane since its entrance up to its exit. Let it be followed by curses," the spokesman said. Iraq has said it would shoot down the plane if it flew within the range of its air defenses. It has also demanded that the United Nations replace the American spy plane with aircraft from other permanent members of the UN Security Council.

"If the Americans think that they with their devilish and ugly acts can scare the great Iraqi people or exert pressure on its leadership to give up the legitimate rights of the Iraqi people...they will once again immerse themselves in bad dreams which are impossible to realize," said the spokesman. Iraq also agreed yesterday in principle to an extension of its oil-for-food deal with the UN, a spokesman for the Iraqi Culture and Information ministry said.

"Iraq does not object, in principle, to the renewal of the agreement for (selling) oil in return for food, medicine and other humanitarian needs with the United Nations," the spokesman said, according to INA. The spokesman said Baghdad still viewed the deal, which allows Iraq to export oil worth \$2 billion over six months, as a temporary measure and not a substitute for the removal of all curbs on the country's oil exports. A UN spokesman in Baghdad said Thursday that Iraq was not willing to renew the deal until issues related to the approval of contracts, delivery of supplies and letters of credit were solved. The deal first came into effect in December last year and was renewed by the UN Security Council for another six months from June 8.

The current phase of the plan expires on December 5. For each phase of oil exports Iraq's government has to prepare an aid distribution plan which must be approved by the United Nations. Meanwhile, Kuwait's defense minister said yesterday he would welcome the import of gas masks to protect the population against chemical and biological weapons. "The ministry welcomes any offers to import gas masks to Kuwait," the deputy premier and defense minister, Sheikh Salem Sabah al-Sabah, told the official Kuwait News Agency. He also said the tiny state, which has a population of 2.15 million, "has no inhibitions on the import of gas masks" by private companies. Kuwait troops and Western forces in the region are on the alert after a standoff between the Iraqi government and the UN over weapons inspections.

Czech PM may quit over finance scandal

By JAN SLIVA

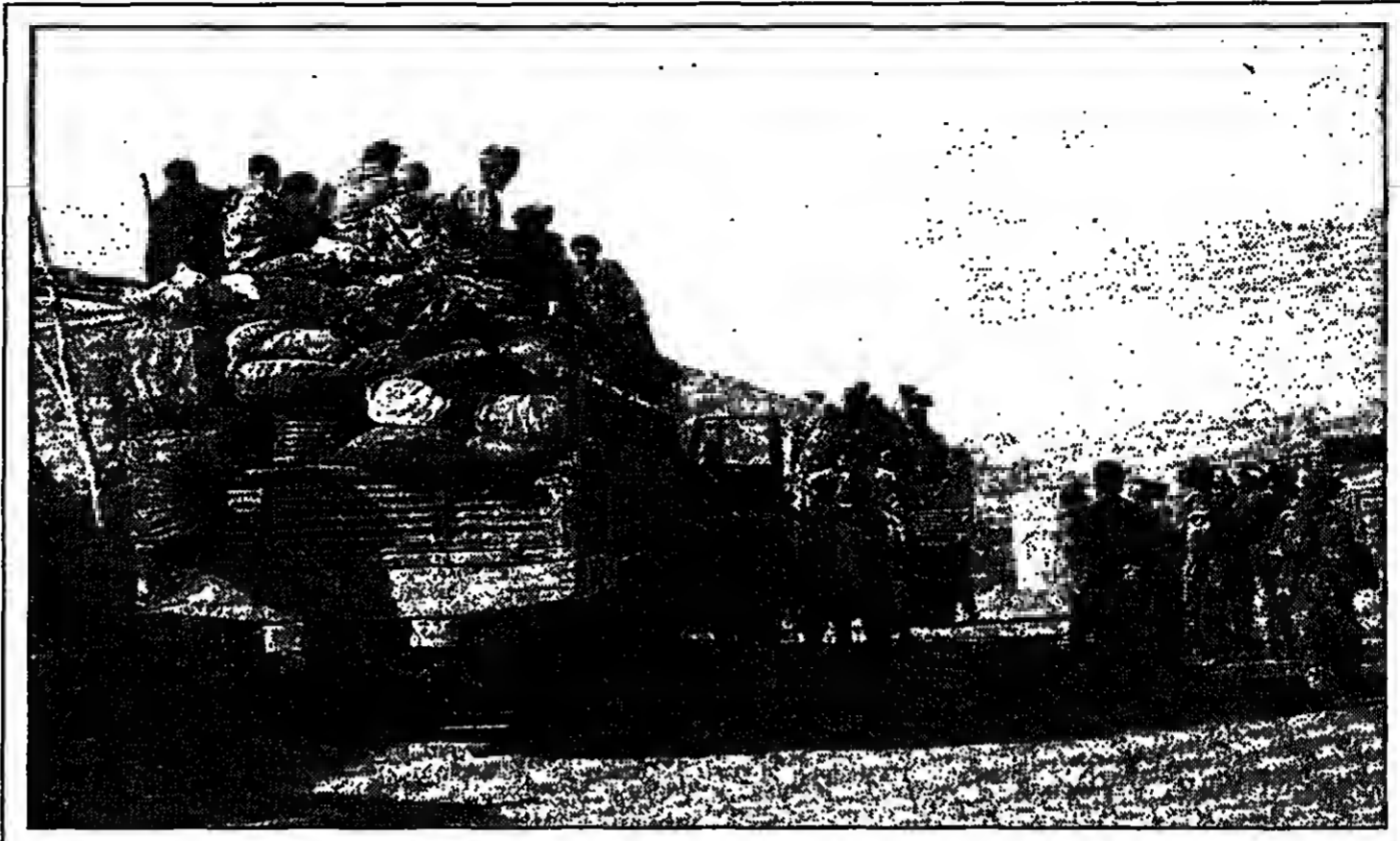
PRAGUE (AP) — Czech Premier Vaclav Klaus suggested for the first time yesterday that he would step down after his government collapsed over a campaign finance scandal. President Vaclav Havel publicly urged him to quit. Half the Cabinet resigned as two of the three parties in Klaus' governing coalition said they were quitting. Havel went live on national radio to urge Klaus to follow suit. "The only meaningful solution is the fastest possible resignation of the entire government, headed by its premier," said Havel, 61, widely regarded as his nation's moral authority. It was the first time the president had taken a firm public stand in months of pressure for Klaus' resignation, which built to breaking point this week as it was revealed the premier's party took a hefty donation from a businessman who had just acquired a large stake in a steel firm privatized by Klaus' government. Havel is recovering from pneumonia, and spoke with heavy breath, in a slow, halting voice. He said he would invite leaders of all three coalition parties to his country residence of Lany today for talks. "The new government should be a government with the support of the present three coalition parties," Havel said. He said he would ask the present government to keep working until a new government is formed, but failed to indicate who he favored as premier. Earlier, Klaus dashed back from a Central European summit in Sarajevo to try and resolve the crisis. Speaking to reporters, he publicly mentioned he might step down. "I am not deaf or blind," said Klaus, insisting however that he knew nothing about his party's scandalous financing before this week. The Czech Republic and the party do not "stand or fall" with Vaclav Klaus, he added. Earlier Saturday, the small Civic Democratic Alliance said it was quitting Klaus' cabinet. Late Friday, the Christian Democrats had announced they were pulling their four ministers — including the key defense minister — from Klaus' government. The Christian Democratic leader, Josef Lux, a vice premier to Klaus, is touted as a possible successor. He has hinted several times in recent months that he wanted Klaus out. Another possible premier is the current finance minister Ivan Filip. The non-partisan governor of the national bank, Josef Tosovsky, is also thought acceptable to Havel. Interior Minister Jindrich Vodicka, a member of Klaus' party and his close ally, told "Nova TV" Friday that the prime minister was "probably the last person" to know about the scandalous donation. "But as party chairman he is responsible for everything that happens."

Nations to debate environmental 'insurance policy'

By CHARLES J. HANLEY

KYOTO (AP) — Representatives of 150 nations are converging on this city of ancient temples to negotiate a 21st-century insurance policy for the planet, a deal to control energy use as a first installment on protecting the atmosphere against global warming. The talks are highly technical and complex, the politics challenging. "There are times when only an act of courage can spur progress in world affairs," UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan said in wishing the conference success as it opens tomorrow. Chief US negotiator Stuart E. Eizenstat predicted a "movable feast" of hard-fought compromises. If successful, the 10 days of negotiations could lead in a decade or so to shifts toward new-technology automobiles and fuel-saving driving habits, away from coal-powered electricity plants, and toward new farming and forestry practices. Such controls over carbon dioxide and other "greenhouse" gases could, in turn, begin to forestall the damaging rises in temperatures, sea levels and severe weather that scientists predict from global warming. But almost every feature of the plan — including who should pay for it — is in dispute. And powerful opposition has developed against early action, especially among oil-producing countries and US coal, oil and other interests likely to be hurt. Industry lobbyists are among the thousands of diplomats, scientists, environmentalists and journalists assembling in Japan's old capital in the midst of unusually mild weather that has Japanese fretting that "global warming" may ruin their Winter Olympics in February in Nagano. "But the vagaries of any day's weather cannot be attributed confidently to global climate change. And this imprecision among scientists has weakened the hand of those trying to combat the phenomenon. At the 1992 Earth Summit in Brazil, the world's nations

signed a Climate Change Treaty that, because of US opposition, set only a voluntary goal: reducing greenhouse gas emissions to 1990 levels by 2000. It soon was clear most countries would miss that goal, and in 1995 governments agreed to toughen the treaty by negotiating legally binding targets and timetables. Several preliminary rounds of talks laid the groundwork for final discussions here over a treaty protocol. The underlying principle of climate change is undisputed: Carbon dioxide, methane, nitrous oxide and a few other gases, mostly from fuel combustion, are transparent to incoming sunlight but trap the heat that Earth emits back to space. In 1995, as atmospheric concentrations of carbon dioxide stood about 30 percent higher than that of pre-industrial times, a UN-sponsored network of climate scientists issued a pivotal report, declaring that global warming was under way and man was apparently partly to blame. Global average temperatures had risen by up to 0.6 degrees Celsius in the past century. The scientists predicted growing emissions would boost temperatures an additional 1 and 3.5 degrees Celsius by 2100, and raise sea levels 15 to 95 centimeters, inundating islands and shorelines, because the warmth would expand ocean volume and melt glaciers. The warming also would shift climate zones abruptly and make regional weather wetter, drier and generally more turbulent, they said. Critics have seized on the uncertainties of the projections to resist early action. "There's a danger of having policy driven by the worst-case scenario," complained the American Petroleum Institute's William O'Keefe, chairman of the Global Climate Coalition, a US industry group that contends emission controls will throw hundreds of thousands of Americans out of work. Environmentalists counter that even a degree more warming could be damaging — flooding much of low-lying, overcrowded Bangladesh, for example.



Refugees flee
Afghanistans refugees flee an area of the central province of Bamyan this weekend after Taliban forces imposed a food blockade on the opposition-led province, putting nearly 160,000 people at risk as winter approaches. The UN was planning an airlift of essentials to aid the refugees. (AP)

Panel: US should focus more on internal terrorism

By PAUL RICHTER

WASHINGTON — With two dozen nations holding deadly chemical and biological arsenals, the Pentagon needs to shift some of its resources from waging major wars abroad to defending against terrorist attacks that could kill thousands of Americans at home, a congressional chartered panel has recommended. To address growing threats from renegade nations and disaffected domestic groups alike, the military needs to expand its role to include some traditionally civilian areas of responsibility — such as border control, disaster response and coordination of intelligence-gathering, the National Defense Panel says in a report due for release tomorrow. The panel proposes setting up a "Homeland Defense Command" under the National Guard that could guide the military's response on these issues, and help

organize the patchwork overlapping responsibilities of various military and civilian agencies. Without a quick change in the Pentagon's focus, in a decade "the military might be superbly prepared to fight the (Iraqi) Republican Guard, but very ill-prepared for these very real kinds of challenges," said one panel member Friday. The nine-member panel, made up of retired military officers and experts, was charged by Congress last year with advising on needed strategies for 2010 and beyond. It concludes that what has long been considered the military's major strategic challenge — to be prepared to wage two big regional wars in rapid succession — is becoming a "low-probability scenario." Yet America is increasingly vulnerable to weapons that are in the hands of smaller nations and renegade groups. These adversaries will increasingly be equipped to deliver chemical and biological

weapons, launch cruise and ballistic missiles, and use high-tech equipment to disable computer and communication networks that have become the national lifeline. The United States has already suffered deadly attacks on the World Trade Center and the federal building in Oklahoma City. "But what if the next Saddam infiltrated a number of (terrorist) teams into the country, striking the New York City subway, and then announced that they had people in many other places as well?" one panel member asked. In those circumstances, he said, the government would need the kind of huge response that would require the military as well as civilian agencies. The new organization might take a role in such diverse areas as developing anti-terrorist tactics and equipment, national missile defense, civil defense medical treatment, hazard detection, anti-narcotics and even immigration control. Panel members believe

traditional limits on the military's role in domestic affairs should be observed, but they also believe the new threats may require a broader response that the military can help provide. "The world is becoming smaller place, where more destructive weapons are in the hands of more people," a panel member said. "And that might require a more comprehensive response." In remarks last month, Philip A. Odeen, the panel's chairman, warned of the risks of smaller scale attacks on the United States, including from ballistic missiles armed with chemical or biological weapons. "There's been very little attention paid" to such problems, he said. And there was a "huge organizational problem" caused by the "rats nest of people involved" in any response to an attack on the United States, Odeen added. Top Pentagon officials, beginning with Secretary William S. Cohen, who appointed the panel, have increasingly stressed the risks from the attacks of terrorist and smaller nations. But it is unclear how they, or Congress, would respond to any proposal that might shift important prerogatives from civilian groups to the military. (Los Angeles Times)

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997 The Jerusalem Post
The end of affirmative action?

ALAN DERSHOWITZ

As many liberals oppose the settlement of the PLO, it is time to consider what this tactic could mean for the future of race-based preferences.

Why, then, did the Supreme Court... The contents of the Bernsteins' exceptionally beautiful apartment attest to the couple's intellectual interests, Lenoy's sense of style, and Felicia's superb taste.

Nowhere have the depredations of AIDS been more visible than among our communities of actors, writers, dancers, artists and musicians. The arts, of course, are peculiarly fitted to make visible the vital preoccupations - in this case, the horror and anger - of those who exercise them.

At home with Lenny

AT THE AUCTIONS WITH MEIR RONNEY

Leaving this life is bad enough; leaving behind a luxurious home, library and a major art collection, not to mention one's loved ones, seems to me to add insult to injury.

Recent auctions have given us a peep, not for the first time, into the homes of the likes of Marlene Dietrich, the Windsors, and Victor and Sally Ganz. Next week, Sotheby's New York will auction the contents of the Manhattan home of the late composer/conductor Leonard Bernstein and his wife Felicia, on behalf of the Sprigate Corporation and the Bernsteins' three children.



Leonard and Felicia Bernstein at tea in their apartment



Yossi Stern's felt-tip drawing of Leonard Bernstein

Talmod from Vilnius. Some of the books are inscribed by such world figures as Martin Luther King, Jackie Kennedy, Abba Eban, Elie Wiesel, and Chaim Herzog.

Bernstein's silk conducting attire and capes are also on offer, as are many photographs and drawings of himself, variously by Larry Rivers (\$1,500-\$2,000); Leroy Neiman (\$2,000-\$3,000); David Levine (\$1,500-\$2,000); and cartoonist Al Capp, creator of Li'l Abner (\$200-\$400).

Lot 56, a signed drawing of Bernstein conducting, done with a pen by the late Jerusalem artist Yossi Stern (who had an intimate relationship with the conductor), is erroneously ascribed in the catalog to "American School, 20th century"; it is clearly signed, but in Hebrew (\$300-\$400).



Alexey von Jawlensky: Woman With Black Hair, oil on board, 1913, to be sold at Sotheby's London on December 8 (£400,000-\$600,000)

School" in this catalog. A realistic crayon drawing of Bernstein conducting, by another Israeli, Shabtai Benaroyo, is correctly identified (\$400-\$600).

LOCAL COLLECTORS OF Hellenist and Roman glass will be interested to know that 33 lots of ancient glass sold by Sotheby's London last week, on behalf of the British Rail Peosloo Fund, brought a whopping £4m, twice the pre-sale estimate.

SOTHEBY'S NEW YORK sale of impressionist and "modern" paintings last week brought \$92.7m, with Renoir's *Bather* doubling its estimate at a stunning \$20.9m.

represented with a rich 1914 oil of horses and buildings by Heinrich Campendonk, which should also achieve £600,000. Fine paintings and prints by Nolde, Pechstein, Beckmann, Schmidt-Rottluff, Otto Muller, Gabriele Munter, Erich Heckel, Egon Schiele and Otto Dix are on offer.

A VARIED and exciting sale of German and Austrian early 20th-century art will be offered by Sotheby's London on December 8 and 9, in tandem with its sales of Impressionist and Modern Art.

THE HIGHLIGHT of Sotheby's sale of American art to New York this week is a group of five turn-of-the-century paintings by John Singer Sargent, some of them set in Venice. Estimates range from \$3m-\$5m. There's also a delightful Edward Hopper, the first of his light-house paintings (approx. \$1m.), made in 1912. And a 1912 Frederic Remington bronze of a cowboy being thrown from his pony has an estimate of \$2.5m-\$3.5m.

Walking on the wild side



Nowhere have the depredations of AIDS been more visible than among our communities of actors, writers, dancers, artists and musicians. The arts, of course, are peculiarly fitted to make visible the vital preoccupations - in this case, the horror and anger - of those who exercise them.

A look at the impact of AIDS in the gay art world resorts to kitsch tragedy and ultimately fails as a novel, writes Richard Eder

is Angie, a fiercely ambitious young painter, heterosexual, and eventually the only big success among the three. She too lusts after Robert, fruitlessly for the most part, though not entirely. Love, in any case, binds the three of them closer than sex ever could. It is a characteristic of Gurganus' three main characters and of the gay-centered world he depicts, that sex and love not only have no obligatory relationship, they have an obligatory lack of relationship.

wife of a big gallery owner, makes friends with her and gets a show, rave reviews and a start on celebrity. There is parody here, of course, but it parodies reality. In any case, Angie is the book's most vivid and memorable character.

There are not many others, unfortunately. *Plays Well With Others*, good as it is in depicting its milieu and the painful care of the AIDS-stricken, fails as a novel. Gurganus and his Hartley attempt to make their story big enough to bear the weight of their message: AIDS' massacre of talent and lives in the gay art world and a proclamation of the beauty and bravery of that world.

Gurganus does some things splendidly. Hartley's voice as he tells of sickbed vigils is witty and piercing. There are sentences that glisten like black opals. Here at the start is Robert, the former Adonis, in a half-coma and thin as "a haddock."

Angie, his painter, changes her name to Alabama - having in mind Thomas Lanier Williams, a far-removed cousin who went far after he called himself Tennessee. She is fierce, resourceful and generous, and ruthless at taking all possible ways up. She gets a bank loan to go to the same health spa as the

When greed replaces good management

Earthly Concerns



By D'vora Ben Shaul

Sometimes it only takes a small push to set off a chain of events that are of importance to millions of people. For the American nuclear establishment this push came in late 1995, when Bob Pollard, a nuclear engineer who is active in the Union of Concerned Scientists (UCS) an American organization, received a packet of documents, sent anonymously. The documents detailed serious safety regulation violations at the Maine Yankee nuclear plant, in the northeastern US.

not reopen. Maine Yankee's management had concluded that bringing the plant up to safety standards would simply cost too much. The years of corner-cutting and falsification of documents were over. That, however, was not the end of the story.

Earlier this year, another set of documents arrived at the UCS office, which led to a completely new investigation by the NRC. This time the target is a company that performs safety analyses and did engineering work for Maine Yankee and a number of other

nuclear plants. Under investigation is this company's safety control systems and practices. All of this demonstrates the degree of danger possible when greed replaces good management. Fortunately, nothing serious happened at Maine Yankee, but the safety inspectors were clear about one thing: Some of the deficiencies in the plant could have easily led to a serious nuclear disaster.

HONOR THEIR MEMORY

Honor the memory of your loved ones with this unique YIZKOR candle holder. Hand-crafted from sterling silver it is designed to hold a traditional Yahrzeit candle. Can be individually engraved with the name of honoree (*price includes 15 engraved letters). MADE OF GENUINE Sterling of 55 grams weight. Designed by Shoshana Oliva.



Order form with fields for name, address, city, phone, and payment options. Includes a note about engraving and postage.

Automatic fruit-sorting system replaces unskilled laborers

By JUDY SIEGEL-ITZKOVICH

One can hardly think of a more boring job than manually sorting fruit, checking it for size, color, defects and overall quality. Eight hours of this for only one day at subsistence wages would send most people packing — but thousands of people here, nearly all women and some of them foreign workers, do it daily.

Now a local company has adapted infrared sensors and advanced computer technology to develop the world's first fully automated fruit sorter.

Uzi Eran, chief executive officer of Fruitronics, says the Optigrade II system pays for itself in less than two years. It allows automatic separation of fruit according to the grades one selects. One batch can go to Japan, which demands the highest standards and may sell a single apple for \$3, a different batch of a lower grade could be for Israel's domestic market, and a still lower grade could be sorted out for Russia, for example.

The four-year-old Dan region company is a subsidiary of El-Op, which develops electro-optical systems for military uses. The Optigrade sorting system was invented by a team of engineers and other scientists headed by Dr. Zvi Lev, who studied physics and mathematics at the Hebrew University and worked for El-Op and Israel Aircraft Industries.

Eran, 45, who farmed in his youth and now has degrees in industrial engineering, manage-

ment and business administration, has been CEO of the company for the last 18 months.

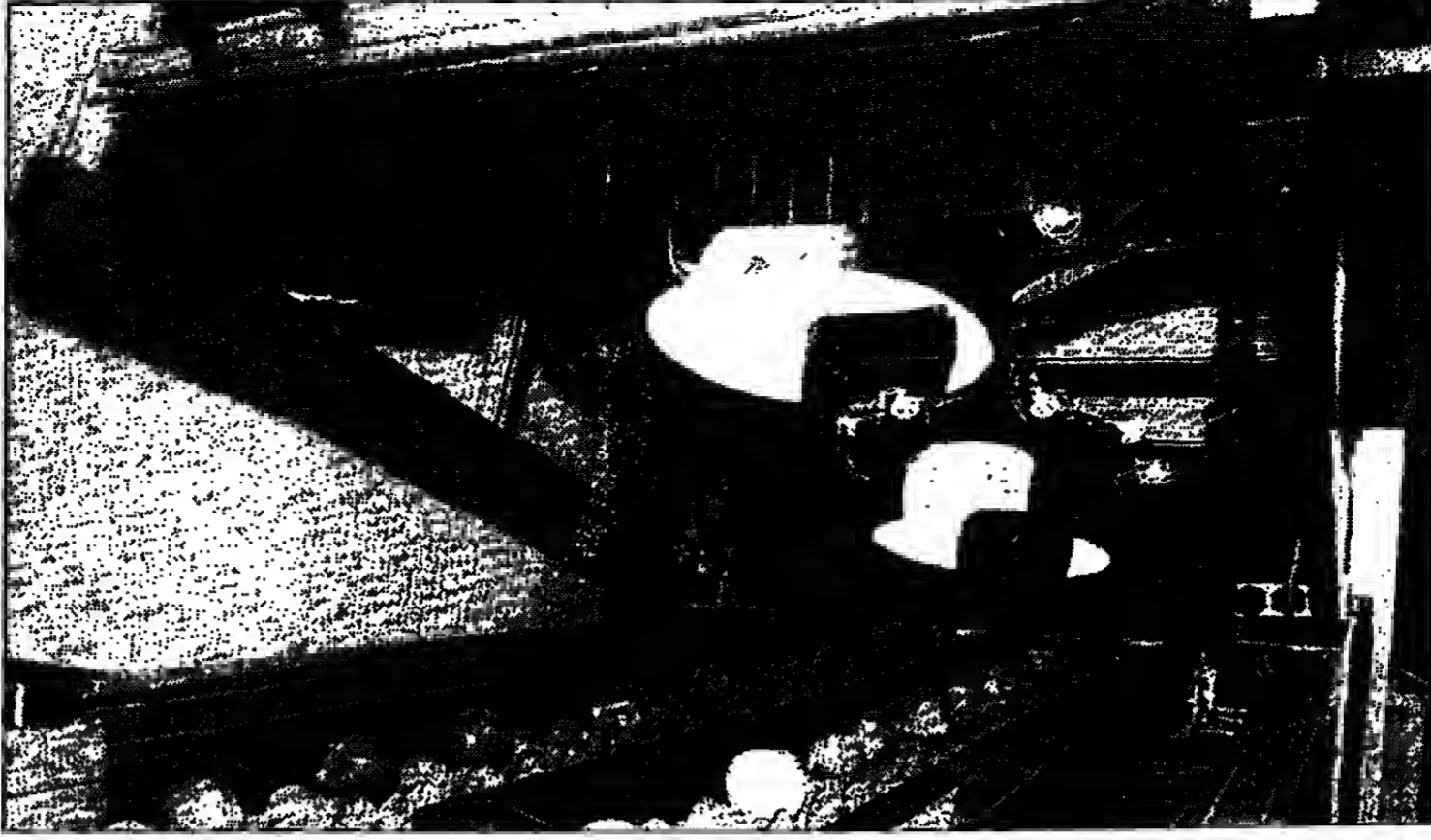
Until now, scales have weighed produce to sort it according to its bulk, while video cameras are used to determine color. But quality grading for blemishes has always had to be done by hand. Human sorting for quality is completely subjective, says Eran, "and decisions taken at 8 a.m. are different from those taken at 3 p.m. when the sorter is tired."

The Optigrade II system does all of these simultaneously, comparing each piece of fruit with an ideal image and matching its variations from the ideal according to thousands of stored images.

The new system, whose first sale was made to a packing house in Italy, is fully automatic, replaces 15 workers per sorting lane and requires only a single supervisor to ensure that all is proceeding smoothly. Infrared and the latest sensing technology sort up to 10 pieces of fruit per second, and the criteria for quality can be "tuned" according to the type of market for which the fruit is destined.

ERAN SAYS that the system, which costs \$30,000 for a single sorting lane (one meter long, with a computerized device about 40 centimeters high), was designed to sort apples, but is now being adapted to sort other produce.

"Next year, it will be able to handle citrus fruits, and later it will go on to avocados, subtropical fruit, tomatoes, potatoes and



The new fruit-sorting system is fully automated and replaces 15 workers per sorting lane, requiring only a single supervisor to ensure that all is proceeding smoothly.

other vegetables and eventually even flowers. It will be possible to sort any natural material — including salt crystals — using the com-

puterized system. It can detect blemishes only a millimeter or two in size caused by frost or hail, that can hardly be seen with the naked

eye," he says.

"It not only looks at the skin, but can also detect brown spots under the skin. No one else in the world

has succeeded in solving such technological problems to produce such an automated sorter. We hold patents registered in the US and in

Israel."

One of its great advantages is its flexibility. "If there's an infestation of pests that cause a certain type of blemish on fruit, we can teach the system to recognize the effects and vary the grading accordingly," explains Eran.

Neural network (artificial intelligence) systems, based on the way the human brain functions, provide the basis for this adaptability. The failure rate, he says, is extremely low, much below that of human sorters.

A fruit-sorting facility in Upper Galilee will be the first local customer, while agreements have been signed with companies in France and in Washington State, which is known for its high-quality apples. So far, several dozen sorting lanes have been sold.

Another advantage of the system is that it can easily be used to retrofit existing mechanical sorting equipment with no need for work to be halted for installation. The system, whose development was partially funded by the Chief Scientist's Office in the Industry and Trade Ministry, can work around the clock.

Although unskilled sorters will lose their jobs with companies that buy this equipment, Eran notes that the industry has had a hard time finding workers to sort produce, and the turnover is very high. In addition, the Optigrade II will reduce Israel's dependence on foreign workers, he says, and its sale will bring considerable foreign currency into the country.

How old is the man in the moon?

By A.J. DICKERSON

The moon's age is finally getting pinned down. Of course, age relative in a universe billions of years old, but a new study narrows the moon's age down to a 20-million-year range.

Using a new tool to study lunar rocks, University of Michigan scientists have narrowed the age of the moon's formation to between 4.52 billion and 4.50 billion years ago. Scientists believe that the moon's formation is a result of a collision about 4.5 billion years ago.

They have come up with

ages for rocks on the moon before, but they've been rather imprecise. What we've done is pin down the age of the moon rather precisely," said geological sciences professor Alexander Halliday.

Research by Halliday, his colleague Der-Chen Lee, and two University of Tennessee scientists also looks up the "big boom" theory of how the moon originated.

"The basic idea is that a planet about the size of Mars, or perhaps a bit larger, hit the Earth, with a glancing blow," Halliday said.

The impact studies suggest that the moon was formed from

material from the Earth, from the planet that hit Earth or from a combination of the two. If the moon came from the planet that hit Earth, that planet's composition had to have been similar to the Earth's composition, Halliday said.

The work in Michigan said that by Tennessee researchers Gregory Snyder and Lawrence Taylor looked at several types of moon rocks said Dr. Larry Nyquist, manager of the Thermal Ionization Mass Spectrometry Laboratory at NASA's Johnson Space Center at Houston.

"It's a very interesting discovery and something we have to try to factor into our own measurements," he said.

There are four major theories about how the moon formed:

Co-accretion: The moon formed in the same place and of the same materials as the Earth.

Fission: The moon is a chunk of the Earth that was broken away from the planet and propelled into orbit by an asteroid impact.

Big boom: The moon was a Mars-size rock that hit the Earth, a large part, perhaps in the form of molten rock, ricocheted into orbit about the planet.

Capture: The moon was a huge rock that strayed into Earth's gravitational pull and was caught in the planet's orbit.

isotope, or form, of tungsten. Measurements of the tungsten isotope in moon rocks yielded results that suggest when the moon would have formed, Halliday said.

"The work in Michigan said that by Tennessee researchers Gregory Snyder and Lawrence Taylor looked at several types of moon rocks said Dr. Larry Nyquist, manager of the Thermal Ionization Mass Spectrometry Laboratory at NASA's Johnson Space Center at Houston.

"It's a very interesting discovery and something we have to try to factor into our own measurements," he said.

A computer in every room and vehicle

By THERESE POLETTI

If you are so technophobic that just programming the TV remote gives you the shivers, think about this: a senior computer executive is aiming at a PC in every room and in every vehicle.

Compaq Computer Corp. president and chief executive Eckhard Pfeiffer described this new goal of his industry in a keynote address to the Comdex computer show.

"The digital home will create for consumers an array of devices all related to the PC," Pfeiffer said in his keynote address to Comdex.

"You have more capability in the car now, it's just a matter of using it," Pfeiffer said, adding that fax machines are becoming more commonplace in cars.

Meanwhile, IBM was demonstrating a "Network Vehicle," a car that has Internet access, via a satellite link, where Web sites can be displayed on color displays at each of the passenger seats.

Compaq expects to be at the forefront of all these developments, and Pfeiffer reiterated his prediction that Compaq will become one of the top three computer makers by the year 2000.

It currently is the world's No. 1 PC maker and with its acquisition of Tandem Computers and other investments, its most powerful PCs, workstations and servers are becoming powerful enough to replace mainframe computers that store massive amounts of corporate data. His goal is for Compaq to be a \$50 billion company by 2000, up from its current projected annual revenues of about \$25 billion for this year.

Meanwhile, IBM's hooth at COMDEX has an unusual device for accessing the Internet — a car that lets drivers surf the Internet, catch up on e-mail, get navigation help and drive at the same time.

The car is a result of a joint effort of IBM, Delco Electronics, Netscape Communications Corp. and Sun Microsystems Inc. and employs technologies already in use, such as IBM's voice recognition software.

The user can verbally request the computer to read aloud e-mail messages, or locate a restaurant or hotel, in a safe manner that does not interfere with driving. Called the Network Vehicle, it accesses the Internet via a satellite connection, using Hughes Electronics DirecTV and DirecPC satellite link.

The car also includes an integrated cellular phone, Netscape's Communicator software for browsing the Web, a touch-screen color flat panel for cockpit control and Sun's Java language.

A heads-up display, developed by Delco Electronics, projects onto the windshield — similar to that used by jet fighter pilots to navigate their destination or to check the vehicle functions without needing to take their eyes off the road.

Passenger seats are equipped with individual terminals for interacting with the Internet, watching television or playing video games.

IBM said that most of the technology could be made available to consumers in as little as 18 months as add-ons to their existing vehicles.

Early versions of Network Vehicles could be available in as little as four years, depending on the development cycles of new car models, IBM said. Daimler-Benz demonstrated a Mercedes wired for Internet access at the Tokyo Auto show last month.

Instant frozen embryos - for animals facing extinction



Embryo preservation is important not only to infertile couples but also for preserving animal species facing extinction.

Now the Volcani Institute for Agriculture Research in Beit Dagan has succeeded in carrying out "instant freezing" of a wide variety of cells and tissues sensitive to conventional slow freezing. Within less than a tenth of a second, the liquid material turns to a solid at minus 200 degrees Celsius without developing ice particles.

Under conventional freezing techniques, it took a whole minute for the temperature to drop 200 degrees, so ice particles formed.

The technique, called vitrification, was developed over a period of 10 years by Volcani's Dr. Amir Erev. It brings a sudden halt to metabolic processes and preserves the biological material in optimal form.

A female calf named Zegugit (the Hebrew word for glass) was born recently as a result of this technique. The ova were ripened and fertilized by semen from a prize-winning bull. After the cells multiplied for a week, the resulting embryo was vitrified and later defrosted for implantation in a surrogate mother.

The calf's weight and health are completely normal. Erev called the success a "breakthrough" in saving animal species from extinction.

EINSTEIN CLEARED

Albert Einstein did not steal his general theory of relativity from German mathematician David Hilbert, according to an international team of researchers that has at last exonerated him posthumously after examining a long-standing allegation of scientific theft.

The best-known accomplishment of the greatest physicist of the 20th century has long been under a small but disparaging cloud.

But in a recent issue of the journal *Science*, a team of experts disclosed newly discovered documents that apparently prove



Pandas are one of the endangered species which can be helped by the embryo freezing technique.

Einstein alone devised the complete final version of the theory. "I had personally come to the conclusion that Einstein plagiarized Hilbert," co-author Jurgen Renn of Berlin's Max Planck Institute for the History of Science told *The Washington Post*.

Hilbert developed a parallel, equivalent version independently a few days before Einstein published his epochal paper in 1915, and some scholars even have suspected that Einstein stole ideas and equations from his rival.

The evidence seemed damning. Einstein had been working on the problem of general relativity for eight long years, and had consulted frequently with Hilbert before submitting his manuscript to the Prussian Academy of Sciences on November 25, 1915. It was published a week later, on December 2, and included detailed forms of the "field equations" describing space-time curvature. The argument also satisfied a condition called "general covariance," a way of postulating laws of motion without respect to any particular space coordinates.

Hilbert, however, had complet-

ed and sent off his paper on the subject, marked with the legend "submitted on 20 November 1915." The final version was published on March 31, 1916. But clearly it had been finished at least five days before Einstein's.

And in its final published form, it contained complete field equations consistent with general covariance — astonishing, considering that Hilbert had only been working on the problem of general relativity for a few months.

The "conclusion is almost unavoidable," Renn said, "that Einstein must have copied from Hilbert."

But in the course of searching through Hilbert's archives in Göttingen, Germany, Leo Corry of the Cohn Institute for the History and Philosophy of Science and Ideas in Tel Aviv, uncovered a galley proof of Hilbert's article on which the printer had stamped the date December 6, 1915.

In the margins of the galley proof, Hilbert had hand-written the addition "first introduced by Einstein." And in the final printed version, he acknowledges the priority of "the magnificent theory... established by Einstein."

Corry, Renn and John Stachel of Boston University examined the proof copy and found it did not contain explicit field equations and did not claim general covariance.

Suddenly, the plagiaristic tables were turned. Hilbert must have borrowed from Einstein (they exchanged manuscripts frequently, though they came at the subject from very different perspectives), and probably added Einstein's equations during extensive revisions.

LOCAL SCIENTISTS FINALISTS FOR PRIZE

Two Israeli scientists are final candidates in a field of 90 for an international prize to be awarded by the Helena Rubinstein company and UNESCO.

Dr. Aliza Adler, a cancer researcher at the Rabin Medical Center-Beilinson Campus, and Dr. Shoshana Weiss, who researches alcoholism, have been chosen among thousands of women scientists around the world and risen to the finals.

The Helena Rubinstein Prize for Women in Science, worth \$20,000, will be awarded for the first time to just four outstanding recipients.

A panel of 12 scientists — including at least one Nobel Prize winner and UNESCO director-general Frederico Major — from Africa, South America, Europe and Asia will choose the winners.

The award ceremony will be held at UNESCO headquarters in Paris in January. A survey conducted by the cosmetics company Helena Rubinstein, which has set aside money for the prizes, found that only 5 to 10 percent of women scientists reach positions of national and international importance, and only 1% of researchers who brought evidence from other sources in their scientific papers quoted women.

Adler is an expert in the field of immunology and has published important papers on malignant melanoma: she is now developing components for a vaccine against the skin cancer.

Weiss is the only Israeli scientist in the field of alcoholism. She developed a school curriculum on alcoholism and has promoted the approach that regards excessive drinking as a disease.

مركز الامم المتحدة

FINANCIAL MARKETS

Dow closes up in shorter session

Wall Street



Dow Jones 7823 ▲ 0.36% FTSE 4831.8 ▼ 0.02% Nikkei 16636.26 ▲ 0.24%

Asia

Shares in Tokyo closed slightly higher Friday, while South Korea's stock market fell to a 10-year low.

Tokyo's key index, the Nikkei average of 225 selected issues, rose 33.06 points to close at 16,636.26.

The slight rise came as investors hoped the government would offer support for Japan's ailing financial and real estate industries.

The fact that recent prominent failures of Sanyo Securities, Hokkaido Tokai Bank and Yamaichi Securities were all announced over the weekend made market participants jittery, traders said.

"Participants are particularly sensitive to the next possible failure of low-priced companies," said Hirofumi Nomura, general manager at Imiti Securities Inc.

"Companies with credit risk continued to be sold in the afternoon, making the market's mood more cautious," Share prices on the South Korea Stock Exchange, closed sharply lower, with the benchmark index falling 4.9 percent to 411.91, its lowest level since July 1987.

The falling market was hit hard by reports that rating agency Moody's Investors Service lowered foreign-currency ceilings for the country's bonds, notes and bank deposits.

Moody's downgrade "will result in South Korean banks having more difficulty borrowing money from abroad," said Kim Dae-hee, an analyst at LG Securities Co.

"Local investors continued to sell stocks on worries of more bank-ruptcies amid deteriorating liquidity conditions."

NEW YORK (AP) — Stocks rose Friday, following rising Asian stocks and the first glimpse of the strength of retail sales to the holiday shopping season.

On Wall Street, the Dow Jones industrial average rose 28.35 points to 7,823.13 in light post-Thanksgiving trading, extending the previous session's rally. The abbreviated trading day ended at 1 p.m., with broad market indexes mostly higher.

The Department of Commerce's report that Americans' income grew a healthy 0.5 percent in October, following a smaller 0.3 percent gain in September and 0.6 percent in August, failed to spur major inflation fears among investors.

Economists say income gains reflect steady wage increases stemming from low unemployment that has created a tight labor market favoring job seekers.

Spending also increased 0.5 percent in October, and some analysts said holiday sales may exceed recent forecasts for mediocre returns.

On Wall Street, advancing issues outnumbered decliners by a 3-to-2 margin on the New York Stock Exchange, with 1,693 up, 1,029 down and 551 unchanged.

NYSE volume totaled 188.91 million shares, vs. 484.06 million shares in the previous session.

The Standard and Poor's 500-stock list rose 4.21 to 955.85, the NYSE composite index rose 1.92 to 499.23, and the Nasdaq composite index rose 6.05 to 1,600.55.

Bucking the trend, the American Stock Exchange composite index dipped 0.14 to 662.35.

Europe

A strong opening to a shortened Wall Street trading session provided a boost to European markets on Friday, but the London Stock Exchange remained mired in a downward slide.

The Dow Jones Industrial index gained 52 points or 2/3 of a percentage point in the first two hours of trade, but volumes were slight as many dealers were still away from the desks following Thursday's Thanksgiving holiday.

"The market is very quiet but the tone is quite firm," said Jim Toth of McDonald & Co.

Share dealing in London was similarly subdued in a dearth of corporate, economic and market news, and the firm opening in New York did little to change that.

"It is extremely quiet, volume is almost non-existent," said Jeremy Batstone, head of research at NatWest Stockbrokers.

The FTSE 100 blue-chip index was similarly subdued in a dearth of corporate, economic and market news, and the firm opening in New York did little to change that.

Dealings occurred mainly in Asia and Europe as US trading rooms were thinly staffed on the day after Thanksgiving.

GENERAL ASSISTANCE

EMERGENCY PHARMACIES: Jerusalem: Hypocrite, 24 Karnei Nasharim, 852-2938; Belem, Salah E. Rd, 827-2315; Shaufat, Shaufat Road, 581-0108; Rad Akavia, Haro's Gate, 828-2058. Tel Aviv: Pharmas Daf Jabotinsky, 125 Ibn Gvira, 546-2040; Superpharm Gimat, 1 Ahimeir, Ramat Aviv Gimat, 841-717; Tel Aviv Monday: Pharmas Daf Jabotinsky, 125 Ibn Gvira, 546-2040; Upper Nazareth: Chai Pharm, Lev Ha'Mail, 857-0488. Open 9 a.m. to 10 p.m.

ISRAELI SHARES ABROAD

LAST CHANGE

AMEX table with columns: Symbol, Price, Change. Includes Am Israel Paper Mills, Amco, Amco Energy, Amco Tech, Amco Chemicals.

NASDAQ

NASDAQ table with columns: Symbol, Price, Change. Includes Amgen, Amgen Biotech, Amgen Chemicals, Amgen Electronics, Amgen Energy, Amgen Health Care, Amgen Industrial, Amgen Medical, Amgen Pharmaceuticals, Amgen Services, Amgen Technology, Amgen Telecommunications, Amgen Transportation, Amgen Utilities.

NYSE

NYSE table with columns: Symbol, Price, Change. Includes Amgen, Amgen Biotech, Amgen Chemicals, Amgen Electronics, Amgen Energy, Amgen Health Care, Amgen Industrial, Amgen Medical, Amgen Pharmaceuticals, Amgen Services, Amgen Technology, Amgen Telecommunications, Amgen Transportation, Amgen Utilities.

LONDON

LONDON table with columns: Symbol, Price, Change. Includes Amgen, Amgen Biotech, Amgen Chemicals, Amgen Electronics, Amgen Energy, Amgen Health Care, Amgen Industrial, Amgen Medical, Amgen Pharmaceuticals, Amgen Services, Amgen Technology, Amgen Telecommunications, Amgen Transportation, Amgen Utilities.

INTERNATIONAL SHARES

INTERNATIONAL SHARES table with columns: Symbol, Price, Change. Includes Amgen, Amgen Biotech, Amgen Chemicals, Amgen Electronics, Amgen Energy, Amgen Health Care, Amgen Industrial, Amgen Medical, Amgen Pharmaceuticals, Amgen Services, Amgen Technology, Amgen Telecommunications, Amgen Transportation, Amgen Utilities.

NEW YORK

NEW YORK table with columns: Symbol, Price, Change. Includes Amgen, Amgen Biotech, Amgen Chemicals, Amgen Electronics, Amgen Energy, Amgen Health Care, Amgen Industrial, Amgen Medical, Amgen Pharmaceuticals, Amgen Services, Amgen Technology, Amgen Telecommunications, Amgen Transportation, Amgen Utilities.

Main table of stock prices with columns: Symbol, Price, Change. Lists various companies like Amgen, Amgen Biotech, Amgen Chemicals, Amgen Electronics, Amgen Energy, Amgen Health Care, Amgen Industrial, Amgen Medical, Amgen Pharmaceuticals, Amgen Services, Amgen Technology, Amgen Telecommunications, Amgen Transportation, Amgen Utilities.

Table of stock prices with columns: Symbol, Price, Change. Lists various companies like Amgen, Amgen Biotech, Amgen Chemicals, Amgen Electronics, Amgen Energy, Amgen Health Care, Amgen Industrial, Amgen Medical, Amgen Pharmaceuticals, Amgen Services, Amgen Technology, Amgen Telecommunications, Amgen Transportation, Amgen Utilities.

ISRAELI MONEY MARKETS

Table of foreign currency deposit rates. Columns: Currency, Rate, Change. Includes US dollar, Pound sterling, German mark, Swiss franc.

Shekel Foreign Exchange Rates

Table of shekel foreign exchange rates. Columns: Currency, Buy, Sell, Banknotes, Rep. Rates. Includes US dollar, Euro, Japanese yen, British pound, etc.

*These rates vary according to bank. **Bank of Israel. SOURCE: BANK LEUMI

DATA COMMUNICATIONS VIA ABA

Foreign financial data courtesy of CommStock Trading Ltd. Futures, Options, Stocks, Bonds and Mutual Funds. 34 Ben Yehuda St., Jerusalem.

Pacific Mediterranean Capital Markets Group

Stock, Bond and Currency Research. Money Management. Corporate Finance. 100, 101, 102, 103, 104, 105, 106, 107, 108, 109, 110, 111, 112, 113, 114, 115, 116, 117, 118, 119, 120.

Iran draw

Two late savings deals...

Amman... Amman... Amman...

76ers deal...

Amman... Amman... Amman...

Amman... Amman... Amman...

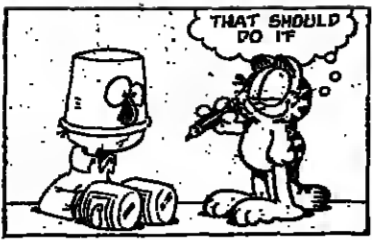
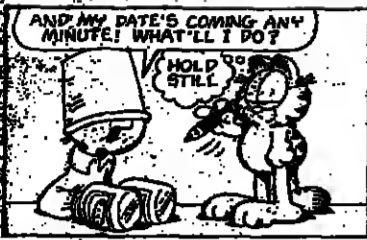
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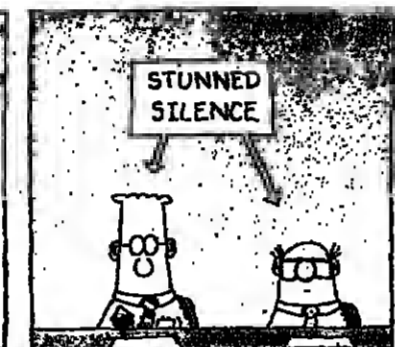
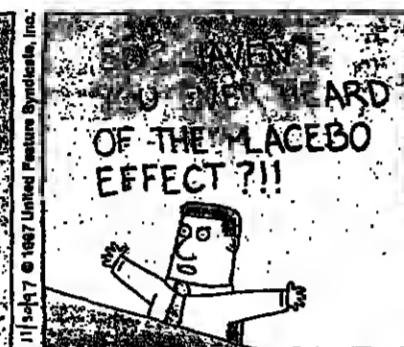
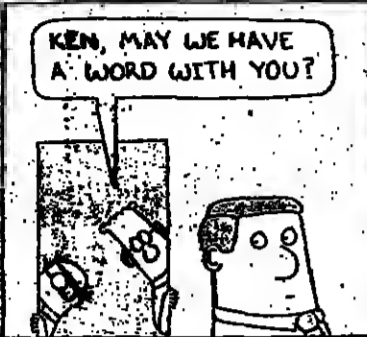
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DILBERT

BY SCOTT ADAMS



Doonesbury G.B. TRUDEAU



FEEFFER

FOR 25 YEARS - HENRY KISSINGER - GETS EXPOSED ALL OVER AGAIN, AS IF FOR THE FIRST TIME. YET NOTHING EVER COMES OF IT. NOW IT'S THE NEW NIXON TAPES... EXTREMELY DAMAGING!

BUT WILL IT AFFECT HENRY'S CONSULTATION FEES?... HIS CONTRACTS AMONG WORLD LEADERS, AND C.E.O.'S?... HIS INVITATIONS TO PARTIES?... HOW DOES HE GET AWAY WITH IT?... FOR A FEE OF \$25,000, I WILL FILL YOU IN.

NOT A CHANCE!

© 1997 JIM FARRER 11-30

Calvin and Hobbes

WILSON

I'VE GOT TO GO IN. ANOTHER FIVE MINUTES OUT HERE, AND I'LL BE FROZEN SOLID.

GOSH, I HOPE THAT WAS NO ONE I KNEW.

YOU LOOKED PRETTY COLD COMING UP THE HILL, SO I FIXED YOU SOME HOT CHOCOLATE AND CRACKERS WITH PEANUT BUTTER.

GO WRAP UP IN A BLANKET AND TAKE THESE IN FRONT OF THE FIRE.

HERE'S HOBBS AND A COMIC BOOK. GETTING TOASTY? UH HUH. THANKS.

SHE EVEN PUT MARSHMALLOWS IN THE HOT CHOCOLATE.

NOBODY KNOWS HOW TO PAMPER LIKE A MOM.

SO ARE YOU GOING TO EAT ALL THOSE PEANUT BUTTER CRACKERS YOURSELF, OR WHAT?

© 1997 WILSON 11/30

The Jerusalem Post: Sunday

THEATER

Heavenly Creatures

CLASSICAL MUSIC

Arise

FILM

1997 ON TV

CRIP

Sweden tops US for 6th Davis Cup title



FIRED UP - Sweden's Jonas Bjorkman (r) leaps toward Niklas Kulti after winning the doubles match against the US and taking the Davis Cup crown, 3-0. (Reuters)

Inside

Aussies miss World Cup bid

Page 13

Sports Editors
Joe Hoffman & Ori Lewis

Israel beats Ukraine

By ARYEH DEAN COHEN

Israel's national team overcame a freezing cold gym and generally terrible conditions in Kiev last night to defeat Ukraine, 65-62 and improve to 2-0 in the preliminary round of the European Championships. The score at halftime was 33-33 after both teams had trouble warming up on the ice cold court. According to radio reports, the Israeli players were housed in a hotel where there was no hot water. Nonetheless, coach Muli Katzurin's club overcame the much taller Ukrainians, who have five players 2.08 or taller, to score their second victory of the week after beating Belarus at home Wednesday night. Israel travels to DeMark next for a match-up against a Danish club which is considered one of the weakest in Group C. A second road victory in that game would give Israel a serious push towards a spot in the championships scheduled for France in 1999. Last night's loss dropped Ukraine to 0-2 after their loss to Spain last week at home, the two home defeats seriously impeding their chances of getting to France in 1999.

GOTEBORG (AP) — Sweden captured the Davis Cup title for the sixth time yesterday when Jonas Bjorkman and Nicklas Kulti beat Jonathan Stark and Todd Martin in the doubles to give their team an unassailable 3-0 lead over the US. Bjorkman and Kulti made sure of the Swedish victory before today's reverse singles by winning 6-4, 6-4, 6-4. "It feels wonderful," Bjorkman said. "I think we played very well." They fought back a couple of times and it was tough, but we were tough mentally," he said. The Swedes won both opening singles Friday and took a 2-0 lead into the doubles in the best-of-five series. "The boys did a fantastic job," said Swedish captain Carl-Axel Hageskog. The American team was left without top-ranked Pete Sampras, who had to default his match to Magnus Larsson because of a pulled calf muscle. "We were hoping for Pete to step up and tie the score," Stark said. "But it didn't affect us today, Todd and I lost to a better team." Sweden won its first title in 1975, and followed with triumphs in 1984, 1985, 1987 and 1994. On Friday, Bjorkman beat Michael Chang 7-5, 1-6, 6-3, 6-3. Larsson lost the first set to Sampras, 6-3, won the second 7-6 and was up 2-1 in the third when the American was forced to default. "I felt a pain in my calf in the middle of the second set," said Sampras in a statement released after the match. "It didn't make sense to continue the way I was feeling." Sampras was taken in a wheelchair for an MRI Friday night at Sahlgrenska Hospital and was ruled out for further play by Dr. George Fared, the US Davis Cup physician. The injury will require three to four weeks to heal. Sampras stayed in his room and watched the doubles on TV. "You have to play with the cards you are dealt with," said US captain Tom Gullikson. "We were dealt a particular hand this weekend. Certainly the Swedish team was the better team this weekend." Trouble in Goteborg was becoming painfully familiar to the Americans, who have lost twice here to Sweden in key Davis Cup matches. In a 1994 Sweden-US semifinal showdown, Sampras beat Larsson but was forced to retire in the third singles against Stefan Edberg and Sweden won the series 3-2. In 1984, the US lost to Sweden 4-1 in the finals, again in Goteborg. The doubles began to go Sweden's way when Stark had his serve broken in the ninth game. Martin botched a volley opportunity and then Stark hit a forehand out for a 5-4 Swedish lead. "We were 40-0 up on my serve but we didn't finish the point," Stark said. "It was a huge game to lose. It got themselves and the crowd fired up." Bjorkman served out the set. Sweden got an early break in the third game of the second set, but the Americans hit right back, taking advantage of two straight volley errors by Bjorkman. The American revival was brief, however. Stark was broken for the second time in the set by a tremendous return by Kulti that gave Sweden a 4-3 lead. The Swedes did not let the opportunity slip away. Kulti fired an ace down the middle line on his third set point to put the host nation two sets up. "Against a team of their caliber, it's difficult to fight back," Martin said. "The way they returned in the first two sets was some of the best returns I've seen."

Waugh sets Aussies on strong course

HOBART (AP) — Mark Waugh continued with his new found batting form with a fine 81 to put Australia in control of the third cricket Test against New Zealand yesterday. But New Zealand's hopes of preventing Australia taking the series 3-0 got a boost when rain robbed a further three hours of play on either side of the tea break on the third day. In reply to Australia's 400, New Zealand, in the 25 minutes of play possible before rain, was 15 without loss with Bryan Young and Matt Home unbeaten on 11 and two respectively. Only 59 minutes of play was possible on the first day after rain and bad light prevented play. A total of eight hours have been lost over three days. New Zealand's first task at hand will be to score 201 and avoid the ignominy of following on. It needs another 186 runs to make Australia bat again. The home side has already clinched the series with wins in the first two Tests in Brisbane and Perth.



ALL OFFENSE - All Black Jonah Lomu tries to break through the Welsh defense. New Zealand beat Wales 40-7 yesterday at Wembley. (Reuters)

All Blacks, Springboks win big

WEMBLEY (AP) — Christian Cullen scored three tries as New Zealand celebrated its first appearance at the home of English soccer with a 42-7 victory over temporarily-homeless Wales yesterday. After wins over Ireland and England, the All Blacks ran in five tries in a one-sided game at Wembley. The game was played here in north London because Wales' biggest stadium, the Arms Park at Cardiff, is being rebuilt for the 1999 World Cup. Cullen, rated the finest fullback in world rugby, took his tally to 22 tries in 21 tests as he continually ran at an overworked Welsh defense. In a thrilling match before 78,000 fans, back row Taine Randell and scrum half Justin Marshall also crossed the Welsh line. Fly half Andrew Mehrtens kicked four conversions and two penalties and back rower Zinzan Brooke kicked a late drop goal. Winger Nigel Walker scored Wales' lone try, converted by Neil Jenkins but, by that time, his team was 39-0 down. The All Blacks, who meet England again at Twickenham next week, took the lead in the sixth minute after a slick move from left to right of the field. Mehrtens passed the ball wide to winger Jeff Wilson who was tackled by Walker but managed to get it inside to Randell. Welsh fullback Kevin Morgan grabbed the back row forward but Randell had too much power and dived over. Mehrtens missed the conversion but kicked a 40-yard penalty three minutes later to make it 8-0. Springboks 29, England 11 South Africa continued its triumphant tour of Europe with a victory at Twickenham after trailing 11-0 just before halftime. The Springboks, who already had crushed Italy and then France twice, replied with tries by prop forward Adrian Garvey, center Andre Strydom, lock Mark Andrews and scrum half Werner Swanepoel as England, who played well in the first half, was outclassed in the second. Fly half Henry Honiball kicked two conversions and a penalty and fullback Percy Montgomery kicked one conversion. England's 16th minute try came from center Nick Greenstock while Mike Catt, who later went off with concussion, kicked two earlier penalties. South African coach Nick Mallett wasn't impressed with his team's performance before half time while his England counterpart, Clive Woodward, wasn't happy with the way his team let the game slip. "We made so many errors in the first half, I think more than we did in two Tests against France," Mallett said. "It was simply a question of playing it closer to the pack and get the big boys to run into them." Woodward thought his team tired after a good first half showing. Catt, who missed three easy kicks against the New Zealand All Blacks last week, fired a 40-yard penalty between the posts in the seventh minute after the Springboks were penalized in a maul.

Zola leads Chelsea to 2nd

LONDON (AP) — Italian Gianfranco Zola, struggling through a sub-par season, scored a hat-trick yesterday to move Chelsea into second place in the Premier League behind Manchester United with a 4-0 hammering of Derby. Manchester United, who are scheduled to play at home today against Blackburn, have 31 points. Chelsea, who have 30 points in third, were United, rejuvenated under second-year coach George Graham, came for 2-0 down to beat Barnsley 3-2 with the winning goal in the 82nd from Derek Lilley. Leeds have 29 points, two ahead of Arsenal. Arsenal are slated to play at home in north London today against Liverpool. Leicester moved into sixth place with a 2-0 victory at Coventry as Matt Elliott scored the second goal on a penalty in the 75th. At the other end of the table, Tottenham with Swiss Christian Gross on the bench for his first game coaching Spurs, won 2-0 at Everton. Even with the win, Spurs stayed in 16th place. Everton — even worse off — are last in the 20-team league. Swiss international Ramon Vega scored in the 72nd for his new Swiss coach and French international David Ginola scored the second in the 76th. In England's first division, Nottingham Forest stayed on top with a 1-0 win at Ipswich. Forest have 41 points. Middlesbrough moved into second with a 1-0 win at home against West Bromwich Albion. Middlesbrough has 38 points. Both teams were demoted last season. Premier League: Barnsley 2, Leeds 3; Bolton 1, Wimbledon 0; Chelsea 4, Derby 0; Coventry 0, Leicester 2; Crystal Palace 1, Newcastle 2; Everton 0, Tottenham 2; Southampton 2, Sheffield Wednesday 3; West Ham 2, Aston Villa 1. First Division: Birmingham 2, Portsmouth 1; Bradford 2, Norwich 1; Huddersfield 2, Bury 0; Ipswich 0, Nottingham Forest 1; Middlesbrough 1, West Brom 0; Oxford United 2, Port Vale 0; Sheffield United 1, Crewe 0; Stockport 3, Manchester City 1; Stoke 1, Reading 2; Sunderland 3, Tranmere 0; Walsley 1, Walsley 1; Walsley 1, Walsley 1; Walsley 1, Walsley 1. Second Division: Brentford 1, Wrexham 1; Bristol Rovers 2, Millwall 1; Burnley 2, Northampton 1; Carlisle 0, Bristol City 3; Chesterfield 1, Southend 0; Gillingham 0, Grimsby 2; Plymouth 0, Oldham 2; Preston 3, Fulham 1; Walsley 1, Walsley 1; Walsley 1, Walsley 1. Third Division: Barnet 2, Darlington 0; Cambridge United 2, Hartlepool 0; Cardiff 1, Scarborough 1; Chester 1, Exeter 1; Hull 3, Doncaster 0; Lincoln City 1, Macclesfield 1; Mansfield 0, Leyton Orient 0; Notts County 2, Peterborough 2; Rochdale 0, Torquay 1; Rotherham 3, Cheltenham 2; Scunthorpe 0, Brighton 2; Shrewsbury 0, Swansea 1. Scottish Premier: Hibernian 1, Motherwell 1; Kilmarnock 2, Dunfermline 1; Rangers 3, St. Johnstone 2.

Israel juniors stun hosts Germany 1-0 to reach European Championship finals

Israel's national junior (under-16) soccer team managed almost the unthinkable in Gelsenkirchen on Friday when they beat hosts Germany 1-0 to advance to the finals of the European Championships. In order to make the finals — which will be held in Scotland next year — for the third time in succession, the Israeli boys needed a win, following their 7-1 defeat of Moldova and their 1-1 draw with Switzerland, the latter two sides which made up the qualifying group. This weekend's Toto Cup results: Betar Jerusalem 3, Ironi Rishon LeZion 2; Hapoel Tel Aviv 4, Maccabi Haifa 0; Maccabi Tel Aviv 0, Maccabi Herzliya 0; Hapoel Petah Tikva 3, Bnei Yehuda 1; Hapoel Haifa 2, Hapoel Ashkelon 0; Hapoel Beersheba 0, Hapoel Beit She'an 2; Ironi Ashdod 2, Hapoel Jerusalem 2; Hapoel Kfar Sava 0, Maccabi Petah Tikva 2. Toto line: 1, 1, X, 1, 1, 2, X, 2, 1, 1, 2, 2, X, X, 2. Toto Plus: 1, 1, X, X, 1, 2, X, 2, 2, X, 2, 2, 1, X. Toto Teko: 7, 13, 14, 16, 19, 22, 25. Ori Lewis

How the college basketball top 25 teams fared Friday:
2. Kansas (6-0) beat Florida State 73-58. 4. North Carolina (5-0) beat Seton Hall 95-65. 6. Purdue (5-0) beat Massachusetts 82-69. 7. UCLA (1-1) beat Alaska-Anchorage 92-68. 11. Connecticut (5-1) beat Arizona State 82-61. 18. Oklahoma (3-1) lost to Butler 73-63. 19. Louisville (2-0) beat Illinois 58-57. 21. Indiana (1-2) lost to Hawaii 82-65. 22. Georgia (5-1) beat Texas 94-76.

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